

Dear CPS Families:

Columbia Public Schools continues to monitor the status of COVID-19 and is actively working on plans related to prevention and alternative instructional options for students should a closure be necessary.

Columbia Public Schools is planning to be in session on Monday. The district will also provide families with another update on plans on Monday. We are in regular contact with lead health agencies and are working directly with city and county officials. We are also following guidance related to school closures from the CDC. Information on school closures from the CDC is available here:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/considerations-for-school-closure.pdf>.

It is important to note that there are currently no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Boone County.

In an effort to continue to provide you with updates on the district's plans related to COVID-19, we have the following information to share:

- District operations and academic department directors are meeting to discuss facility and academic plans should a closure be necessary.
- The district and teachers are working on alternative academic options for students at all levels, including elementary, middle, high school, English Language Learners, and special education should a closure be necessary.
- The district continues to focus on sanitation efforts and reinforce the importance of hand washing. Sanitation efforts are focusing on high-touch areas, including light switches, door knobs, railings, and keyboards among others. Efforts also include school buses after each route.
- Nutrition Services is working to ensure lunch tables and chairs are sanitized. While COVID-19 is not spread through contact with or consumption of food, Nutrition Services is taking additional precautionary measures. The garden bars are being modified to include individually wrapped items and canned fruits and vegetables will no longer be self-serve.
- Nutrition Services is working to gather information from the USDA regarding alternative methods to feed students in need should a closure be necessary.
- The district is receiving information from athletic and activity organizers, including MSHSAA, regarding any changes to athletic events or activities. Those changes are being communicated directly with students and families participating in those activities.
- As a reminder, students who have health needs that make them high-risk or students with family members in the home who are high-risk, may work directly with their school nurse and guidance counselor to determine the best academic and educational plan.
- The CDC has a resource for families about coping and talking to your children about COVID-19: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/coping.html>
- The district is receiving a number of questions regarding family travel plans. We encourage families to follow the travel guidance being provided by the CDC. You can review that information here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>

Resources and information is also available on the CDC website:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/summary.html>

The Columbia/Boone County Health Department also have resources and information on its website:
<https://www.como.gov/health/novel-coronavirus-2019-covid-19/>

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) activated a statewide public hotline for citizens or providers needing guidance regarding the novel coronavirus, or COVID-19. The hotline can be reached at **877-435-8411**. The hotline is being operated by medical professionals and is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

As a continued reminder below is the health information that is shared at the beginning of each school year regarding students and illness.

The risk of illness in your family can be reduced by following these important steps:

- **Wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds**
- **Stay home if you are sick**
- **Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when sneezing or coughing and dispose of the tissue in a proper trash receptacle**
- **Avoid touching your mouth, nose or eyes as germs spread this way**
- **Maintain a healthy diet**
- **Avoid sharing drinks, water bottles or silverware with others**
- **Get plenty of rest**

Students and staff exhibiting the following symptoms will be sent home and/or should remain at home if they exhibit any of the following:

- Temperature of 100 degree or greater
- Vomiting with associated signs of illness
- Diarrhea
- Unusual or unexplained rash
- Ongoing symptoms of discomfort or immobility from an injury
- A concerning health condition that may require further medical evaluation, this may include respiratory symptoms in combination with other symptoms

Thank you for your continued care and concern. We will continue to remain vigilant and share information as it becomes available from lead health agencies.

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